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MEDICAL NOTES.

PRESERVING BODIES BY METALLIZING.—A Frenchman sometime suggested that human bodies be copper plated as a means of preservation, he having tried the experiment successfully on small animals; and the copper shell can be plated with nickel, silver or gold.

Whatever use may be made of this as a means of preservation, it is useful as a method of obtaining fac-simile casts for demonstration. The process proposed by Broca for metallizing the brain is well known.

The organ is first hardened, then immersed in a solution of nitrate of silver, and then exposed to the action of sulphurated hydrogen; a metallic sulphide is thus formed, which acts the same as the black lead coating employed in electrotyping; the organ thus prepared is placed in the bath; the operation being the same as in electro-metallurgy, only a very thin deposit being taken. The brain is removed through a small hole, the interior washed out with strong lye, and finally after drying the shell is filled with plaster of Paris.

WHAT DOCTORS PRESCRIBE.—The subscribers to "The Chemist and Druggist," London, having been asked to send to the editor 10,000 prescriptions, a digest of the answers received shows that spirits of chloroform, sal volatile, glycerine and syrup of orange peel take high places as drugs most frequently prescribed—to these being also added bromide of potassium, which ranks second only to chloroform. Wine of ipecacuanha, sulphate of quinine, bicarbonate of soda, carbonate of ammonia, liquor ammonica acetatis, potassi bicarbonatis and spiritus ethicus nitro, are the other members of the group of twelve drugs most frequently ordered. Several of these minister to the disorders of the respiratory tract, and the time of year may have some influence on their use. This kind of information cannot, however, be regarded as representative. Thus, if the statistics of some hospitals and dispensaries were taken, bicarbonate of soda, rhubarb and gentian would be thought to exceed the others in frequency of prescription; the former spirit of chloroform and syrup of orange peel are mainly used as adjuncts.

FUMIGATION IN CASE OF DIPHTHERIA.—A writer in "The American Medical Journal" urges, in case of houses or apartments where there is diphtheria, that the most convenient method of fumigation is to drop a small pinch of sulphur upon a hot stove; if there is one in the room; if there be no stove in the room, a few coals on a shovel or other convenient utensil may be carried into the room, and the sulphur dropped on the coals—a little expense soon enabling any one to determine how much sulphur to burn in each room. It is not necessary, he remarks, to fill the room so full of these sulphur fumes as to cause suffocation, and if in any case a little too much sulphur is used, causing offensive fumes, the doors and windows can be opened for a minute or two. Other disinfectants may be of course employed, but these sulphur fumes are found to permeate every crevice in the house—the fact being that it is the most practical and effectual method of infection against the spread of the disease that can be adopted; is useful, indeed, in the house infected and in all neighboring houses.

INDIGESTION TREATED WITH CARBOLIC ACID.—Of late, cases of indigestion have been treated with carbolic acid, its employment being found very satisfactory in that form of dyspepsia known as enteritis, accompanied by constant sour rising and eructations of gas, with pain after meals and discomfort even after drinking milk or cream. It has proved useful in the form of glycerine and carbolic acid, that is, one part of glycerine to four parts of carbolic acid, and of glycerine, the dose being from five to ten minims in minit water, or other convenient vehicle. In case of much pain of the stomach after food, it has been found useful to add five or six minims of the liquor emollient to each dose, and when there is want of tone in the seat of indigestion and bad appetite, five or six minims of the tincture of mastic varnish have proved serviceable. It is an interesting subject of inquiry, whether the carbolic acid in this application, acts by arresting fermentative changes in the stomach, or by its well-known anesthetic influence on mucous membranes.

PALEFACE OF THE EYE BY CERTAIN COLORES.—It has been laid down by M. Chevrelot that the human eye cannot be long employed in the perception of a given color without tending to become insensible and to arouse an impression similar to that ordinarily produced by the perception of white light. Dr. Beclard has also noticed that when the eye is directed for a time upon a colored field, the other eye being closed, if the eye which was open is then closed and the other opened a second time, the right eye will have observed a red disk, the left being shut, a reversal of this state of things would result in the perception of a green disk by the freshly opened left eye. In virtue of the same property of the eye, when two tints are placed beside each other, the nearest edge of the one will appear as though deprived of all the colored rays which it may have in common with the other. An anaesthetic effect is produced when gray, non-colored, that is to say, formed simply of white and black.

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